

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 151388  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: NEA:RNEUMANN

APPROVED BY: NEA:RENEUMANN

S/S-O JETHYDEN

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O 291836Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 151388

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO  
FROM DAMASCUS DTD 28 JUN 1977; 153

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4046

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, LE, IS, SY

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION

REF: STATE 148797

1. I MET WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI  
JUNE 28 TO DELIVER POINTS REFTEL. AFTER CONFIRMING THAT I  
HAD NOT MADE PARALLEL DEMARCHE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, DAOUDI  
SAID THAT HE WOULD BRING OUR MESSAGE TO ATTENTION OF  
PRESIDENT ASSAD AND OBTAIN PRESIDENT'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
WE HAD POSED.

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2. DAOUDI SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT CAPABLE OF DELIVERING  
AUTHORITATIVE SYRIAN ASSESSMENT, BUT AS PRELIMINARY ANSWER,  
HE COULD CONFIRM THAT SYRIAN CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS  
IN SOUTH LEBANON HAD HEIGHTENED OVER PAST FEW DAYS.  
HE ADVISED US TO KNOW THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD HAD BEEN URGING  
ALL SIDES TO REMAIN CALM SO THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE  
NO PRETEXT TO MAKE A MOVE IN THE AREA. SYRIA, DAOUDI

CONTINUED, CONSIDERED ISRAEL TO BE THE MAIN FACTOR BEHIND THE CONTINUING TROUBLES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE PRESIDENT, HE REPORTED, WAS WORKING WITH ALL FACTIONS AND URGING THEM TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ISRAEL'S DESIGNS ON SOUTHERN LEBANON; ANY CHANGE IN THE UNCOMFORTABLE EXISTING SITUATION IN THE SOUTH COULD LEAD TO FURTHER ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST ARAB TERRITORY.

3. I TOLD DAUDI THAT OUR CURRENT IMPRESSION WAS THAT CHRISTIAN MILITIA LACKED CAPABILITY AT THIS TIME TO MOUNT ANY MAJOR OFFENSIVE OPERATION WITH THEIR OWN RESOURCES AND ADDED OUR VIEW THAT AGGRESSIVE ISRAELI ACTION ON THE BORDER APPEARED UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. HE TOOK NOTE OF THESE POINTS BUT REITERATED SYRIAN CONCERN REGARDING ISRAELI INTENTIONS.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS CINCEUR FOR POLAD.  
PELLETREAU UNQUOTE  
VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE151388  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** NEA:RNEUMANN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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